

OLD-TAVERN.
WASHINGTON, ARK.

Hempstead Co.

HABS. 32-4.

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PHOTOGRAPHS.
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA.
DISTRICT NO 32.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY.
LAWSON L. DELONY DISTRICT OFFICER.
807 SOUTHERN BLDG. LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

OLD TAVERN
Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas

HISTORICAL NOTES:

Located in Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas, directly on the old Military Trail, ^{this tavern} is about the oldest structure in Washington. Built about 1830 chiefly of hand hewn timbers, it was used as a stage coach station and the housing of many prominent notables of the time, among them, Sam Houston, who dreamed his dream of free Texas while stopping here. Where U. S. Troops stopped for refreshments while on their way to fight for Texas Freedom. Here it was they hired Nick Trammell, of Murrell's notorious band of outlaws, to guide them to the Mexican Border. Also, where David Crockett and Bowie stopped many times.

Later this building was head quarters for officers when the Arkansas troops mobilized in Washington for the war between Texas and Mexico. Later the place was purchased by Col. W. H. Etter, the founder of the Washington Telegraph (oldest newspaper west of the Mississippi River) who converted it into a residence.

At the close of the war between the States - Col. Etter turned the place over to Albert Pike, who lived in it until 1872. It was here that Pike wrote part of his "Morals & Dogma" and had part of his library housed in this old structure.

The place is now owned by Rhoda Petty, old negro slave, and in a very bad condition, part of the original building having been torn down. The Old Tavern was bought by Peter Petty, husband of Rhoda, in 1899. Upon the death of Peter in 1902, the old building was left to Rhoda who occupies the building at the present time.

Lawson L. Delong

Source of information:
Mrs. Charlean Moss Williams, Washington, Arkansas .
W. H. Etter of the Washington Telegraph.

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